

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 /108 W

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R 101559Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 547

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS: ANNIVERSARY OF  
INTERNMEN

REF: BELFAST 124

1. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DRAFT ASSEMBLY'S STANDING ORDER,  
I.E. RULES OF PROCEDURE, MET AUGUST 9. PAISLEY ATTENDED  
HAVING ANNOUNCED EARLIER HIS (AND HIS PARTY'S) INTENTION  
TO PARTICIPATE SO AS TO MAKE ASSEMBLY ELECTED CONFERENCE  
TABLE FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR N.I. AND TO STOP SELLOUT  
TO A "UNITED IRELAND" WHICH HE SEES PRESENT  
CONSTITUTION ACT AS BEING. CRAIG DID NOT ATTEND, AND IS  
AUDIBLY THREATENING SUIT IN HIGH COURT TO ENJOIN PROCEEDINGS  
ON GROUND SPEAKER MINFORD DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT  
COMMITTEE, I.E. HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO APPOINT BY ASSEMBLY  
ITSELF.

2. PROGRESS OF DELIBERATIONS BEING HELD IN CONFIDENCE, BUT  
WORD HAS LEAKED THAT COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK,  
PROBABLY AUGUST 17. SOURCE AT STORMONT CASTLE SPECULATES THAT  
DRAFTING OF RULES OF PROCEDURE (USING DRAFT WORKED OUT BY  
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HMG BEFOREHAND) WILL LIKELY BE COMPLETED BY END OF MONTH.

AND THAT DRAFT RULES WILL BE PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY AT NEXT SESSION, PROBABLY IN MID-SEPTEMBER. LITTLE AVAILABLE COMMENT ON WHETHER AGREEING ONSET OF RULES TO RECOMMEND TO FULL ASSEMBLY WILL BE LONG OR SHORT PROCESS. ONE LOCAL MEDIA PUNDIT WHO HAS GOOD CONTACTS EVERYWHERE SPECULATED THAT IT WILL TAKE RATHER LONGER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

3. SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT DAY PASSED OFF NOISILY AND VIOLENTLY BUT LESS SO ACCORDING TO ONE MILITARY SPOKESMAN THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED. PROCEEDINGS STARTED WITH DUSTBIN LID CACOPHONIES AT 4AM (TIME OF AUGUST 1971 SWOOPS) AND CONTINUED UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT WITH NOISE, PROCESSIONS, RIOTS, ATTACKS ON ARMY AND POLICE POSTS. ONE PARTICULARLY NASTY EFFORT, FOR WHICH PROVOS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY, WAS ATTACK ON MILITARY HOUSING COMPLEX NEAR OMAGH. NO ONE WAS KILLED, BUT 16 WOMEN AND CHILDREN INJURED. PROVOS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT SUCH HOUSING ESTATES ARE NOW TO BE REGARDED AS "LEGITIMATE TARGETS."

4. WHITELAW ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF ABOUT 100 PRISONERS ON INTERNMENT DAY EVE: MOVE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN SOME STEAM OUT OF DEMOS REQUIRING PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC. PRISONERS WERE NOT TERRORISTS, BUT THOSE CONVICTED OF PARTICIPATING IN ILLEGAL PROCESSIONS, ETC. RELEASE PROVIDED MEANS OF GETTING RID OF TWO PEOPLES DEMOCRACY LEADERS (ONE WAS MICHAEL FARRELL) WHO WERE IN DETERIORATING CONDITION DUE TO 35-DAY HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING GOVT'S REFUSAL TO GRANT THEM "POLITICAL PRISONER" STATUS.  
PENBERTHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BELFAS00125  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BELFAST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730846/aaaabhus.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BELFAST 124  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPECIAL COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS: ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, UK, (NI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005